

Supplemental Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Attorney Thomas E. Kocovsky Jr. Reg. No. 28,383** on **February 2nd, 2009** along with authorization to charge any necessary fees to applicant's deposit account.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
A) Replace claim 18 of the applicants September 22nd 2008 amendment and response with the following **Examiner amended claim 18**:

Claim 18 --- The magnetic resonance imaging scanner as set forth in **claim 15**, wherein the ferromagnetic particles are dispersed in the binder with a fill factor greater than 50% by volume. ---

- B) Replace claim 19** of the applicants September 22nd 2008 amendment and response with the following **Examiner amended claim 18**:

Claim 19 --- The magnetic resonance imaging scanner as set forth in **claim 15**, wherein the ferromagnetic particles have an anisotropic particle demagnetization factor with a largest particle demagnetization factor component generally oriented in the direction of the temporally constant magnetic field and a smaller particle demagnetization factor component oriented in a tangential direction transverse to the direction of the temporally constant magnetic field. ---

The following is still the examiner's statement of **Reasons for Allowance**:

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4. With respect to **independent claim 1, and previously examiner amended independent claim 15**: these independent claims are considered to be allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record neither discloses nor suggests an MRI imaging scanner comprising: **a radio frequency shield; a radio frequency coil disposed inside of the radio frequency shield and selectively producing a radio frequency field; and a magnetic field modifying structure designed to enhance the temporally constant magnetic field, the magnetic field modifying structure being disposed inside of the radio frequency shield and including particles of magnetic material generally smaller in at least one dimension than a skin depth of the radio frequency field in the magnetic material dispersed in an insulating binder** as set forth in **independent claim 1**, and correspondingly in previously Examiner amended independent claim 15. Specifically, it is the combinational structural features set forth in independent claim 1. and examiner amended independent claim 15 which makes applicants claim novel and not obvious over the prior art of record. The examiner notes, however that it is the entire combination all of the claim limitations taken as a whole, as set forth, in **independent claim 1**, and **examiner amended independent claim 15**, which constitutes the full novelty and non-obviousness of applicant's instant application. The examiner notes that, all of the examiner amendments herein to **examiner amended claim 15** are fully supported by the original specification as filed, and that the application is considered to be free of new matter.
5. With respect to **dependent claims 2-14, 16, 18, and 19** each of these claims is considered to be allowable over the prior art of record, by the examiner, because they each depend from an allowable independent claim or an allowable Examiner amended independent claim.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tiffany Fetzner whose telephone number is: (571) 272-2241. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday-Thursday from 7:00am to 2:10 pm., and on Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00am to 5:30pm.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Diego Gutierrez**, can be reached at (571) 272-2245. The **only official fax phone number** for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(571) 273-8300**.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PMR only. For more information about the PMR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PMR system contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Brij Shrivastav/

/TAF/

Primary Patent Examiner

February 11, 2009

Technology Center 2800